



Billing Code 4333–15

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–R3–ES–2017–N035; FXES11130300000–178–FF03E00000]

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications for a permit to conduct activities intended to enhance the survival of endangered or threatened species. Federal law prohibits certain activities with endangered species unless a permit is obtained.

DATES: We must receive any written comments on or before **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments by U.S. mail to the Regional Director, Attn: Carlita Payne, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990, Bloomington, MN 55437–1458; or by electronic mail to permitsR3ES@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carlita Payne, (612) 713–5343.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*),

prohibits certain activities with endangered and threatened species unless the activities are specifically authorized by a Federal permit. The ESA and our implementing regulations in part 17 of title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) provide for the issuance of such permits and require that we invite public comment before issuing permits for activities involving endangered species.

A permit granted by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA authorizes the permittee to conduct activities with U.S. endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes, enhancement of propagation or survival, or interstate commerce (the latter only in the event that it facilitates scientific purposes or enhancement of propagation or survival). Our regulations implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA for these permits are found at 50 CFR 17.22 for endangered wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.32 for threatened wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.62 for endangered plant species, and 50 CFR 17.72 for threatened plant species.

Applications Available for Review and Comment

We invite local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies and the public to comment on the following applications. Please refer to the permit number when you submit comments. Documents and other information the applicants have submitted with the applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

Permit Applications

Proposed activities in the following permit requests are for the recovery and enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

Application	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of Take	Permit
TE19208C	Ashley Matteson	Indiana bat <i>(Myotis sodalis)</i> , gray bat (<i>M.</i> <i>grisescens</i>),	Rangewide	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct	Capture, handle, mist-net, harp trap, radio-tag, band, release	New

TE71821A	David Zanatta	Snuffbox <i>(Epioblasma triquetra)</i> , white cat's paw pearly mussel (<i>E. obliquata perobliqua</i>), northern riffleshell (<i>E. torulosa</i>)	Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin	Conduct presence/absence surveys, relocations, transport	Capture, handle, relocate, release	Amend, renew
TE120259	Missouri Department of	Pallid sturgeon (<i>Scaphirhynchus</i>	Kansas, Missouri	Capture, collect morphological data,	Capture, handle, release, transport	Amend, renew

				tissue samples, use gill nets, conduct diet evaluation, hold and		
TE73584A	Illinois Natural History Survey	15 freshwater mussel species	Illinois	Conduct presence/absence	Capture, handle, release	Renew
TE40128B	Mainstream Commercial	27 freshwater mussel species	Rangewide	Conduct presence/absence	Capture, handle, release	Renew
TE02344A	Mainstream Commercial	20 freshwater mussel species	Rangewide	Conduct presence/absence	Capture, handle, release	Renew

TE48835A	Applied Science and Technology Inc.	Snuffbox (<i>Epioblasma</i> <i>triquetra</i>), white cat's paw pearly mussel (<i>E.</i> <i>obliquata</i> <i>perobliqua</i>), purple cat's paw	Michigan, Ohio	Conduct presence/absence surveys	Capture, handle, release	Amend, renew
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TE697830	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 3	Multiple mammal, bird, amphibian, fish, mussel, snail, insect, crustacean,	Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio,	Conduct approved recovery activities for scientific purposes or the enhancement of	Capture, handle, harass, transport, propagate, hold, relocate,	Amend
TE207526	U.S. Geological Survey, Columbia Environmental Research Center	Pallid sturgeon (<i>Scaphirhynchus</i> <i>albus</i>), Neosho madtom (<i>Noturus</i>	Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska,	Capture, collect morphological data, collect blood and tissue sample, hold	Capture, handle, release, transport	Amend, renew
TE206781	Ecological Specialists, Inc.	58 freshwater mussel species	Rangewide	Conduct presence/absence	Capture, handle, release	Amend

TE07358A	Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc.	Indiana bat (<i>Myotis</i> <i>sodalis</i>), gray bat (<i>M. grisescens</i>), northern long- eared bat (<i>M.</i> <i>septentrionalis</i>), Virginia big-eared	Rangewide	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts	Capture, handle, mist-net, harp trap, radio-tag, band, release	Renew, amend
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TE06801A	Pittsburgh Wildlife & Environmental, Inc.	Indiana bat (<i>Myotis</i> <i>sodalis</i>), gray bat (<i>M. grisescens</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>M.</i> <i>septentrionalis</i>), Big Sandy crayfish	Rangewide	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts	Capture, handle, temporarily hold, release	Amend
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TE38842A	Sanders Environmental Inc.	Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), northern long- eared bat (<i>M.</i> <i>septentrionalis</i>)	Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan,	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts	Capture, handle, mist-net, radio- tag, band, release	Amend
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National Environmental Policy Act

The proposed activities in the requested permits qualify as categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act, as provided by Department of the Interior implementing regulations in part 46 of title 43 of the CFR (43 CFR 46.205, 46.210, and 46.215).

Public Availability of Comments

We seek public review and comments on these permit applications. Please refer to the permit number when you submit comments. Comments and materials we receive in response to this notice are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address listed above in **ADDRESSES**.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10 of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Dated: March 3, 2017.

Sean O. Marsan,

Acting Assistant Regional Director,

Ecological Services,

Midwest Region.

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